

NEVADA BROADBAND TASK FORCE
MEETING

July 31, 2014
9 A.M.

1. Call to order, roll call, and determination of quorum.

Name	Affiliation	Present	Location
Brad Lyon	Moapa Telephone	X	Logandale
Daphne DeLeon	State Library and Archives	X	Reno
Ed Anderson	Nevada System of Higher Education	X	Reno
Elmer Porter	Eureka County School District	X	Eureka
Jeff Fontaine	Nevada Association of Counties	X	Phone
Gerald Ackerman	University of Nevada School of Medicine	X	Elko
Linda Stinar	CenturyLink Communications	X	Las Vegas

Daphne DeLeon called the meeting to order at 9:03.

2. Introduction of task force members and staff, names and affiliations

3. Public Comment

None

4. Follow up on action items from previous meetings

Lindsey Harmon, Connect Nevada, mentioned Jim Garza was looking into an outline that he was working on but not present right now and not sure if he'll be joining the meeting today, hadn't heard back from him.

Daphne DeLeon, Nevada State Library & Archives, added that after the last meeting we focused a lot on K-12 and Jim Garza recommended a master plan might be the next step where they do mapping and further study of what was presented regarding K-12 broadband needs, we wanted Jim to do follow up on that but we're not sure if Jim will be at this meeting today and if he does join us late we'll ask him to share with us more of his idea and if not we'll ask him at the next meeting. I'm going to move up the Nevada Hospital Association update so Mike you're up.

8. Nevada Hospital Association Update

Mike Piper, Nevada Hospital Association, mentioned that most of you are familiar with our project, and the NTIA grant we received almost 4 years ago for \$19 million to build a statewide broadband fiber network focused on Nevada hospitals. We had

some issues with the project like funding and others issues a few years ago and we were able to work through that and we now have an approved plan to move forward and NTIA gave us the go ahead in March of this year to resume construction of the network. The construction really got going in June and we have built 140 miles of network with a planned built network total of 540 miles, so we still have a significant amount left to do but construction has started and we will be lighting fiber from Reno to Silver Springs in August and as of last week we have we have a physical connection to State's network at 200 S. Virginia Street that NSHE assisted with, it's not provisioned yet but the physical connection is there.

Ed Anderson, Nevada State Higher Education, added that the last he had heard it was a jumper land that is ready to be plugged in.

Mike Piper continued that this still has to get provisioned and will be done in August. The current grant expires on September 30, 2014 and we're not going to be done in 2 months so we requested from the NTIA another 1 year to finish the network and it looks like we'll get approval on that based on the progress, everything looks good, the monies in place, agreements are in place to complete network in the next year. In fact we believe it'll be finished in Spring 2015 and hopefully we don't need until next fiscal year, we're pretty confident we'll get it done in Spring of 2015. One thing we did in the application to resume construction was make some route changes to get around some changes we had, most are significant mileage changes between Yerington and Hawthorne across the Walker River tribal reservation. Our original plan was not set to go to Schurz, but take a more direct route between Yerington and Schurz. After meeting with the tribe a few years ago the tribe wanted service, so the new plan is to build to Schurz and provide service to the tribe and then onto Hawthorne. The route change has to be approved by the Department of Congress, we've submitted the request to the Department of Congress and they've done the initial review and now we have to do environmental compliance, there's some work to be done before route is approved but we hope to get approval in the next few months and then complete the segment as well which will be an enhancement to the network as well as provide service to the tribe out there. That covers where we are, most of the construction now has been done south of Tonopah and Beatty mainly because it's an easy area to construct, not a lot of permits, right-of-ways, and mostly BLM land. We will then start moving in both directions, north and south to get entire link between Las Vegas and Reno.

Daphne DeLeon asked if there were any questions or comments from the taskforce members or the public?

Lindsey Harmon asked the question, "When you say serve the tribe, are there certain entities within the tribe that you're planning on serving and are you the last mile solution for the tribe?"

Mike Piper answered that's their intention and we've designed the backbone to go through Schurz but we haven't designed/sat down with the tribe and asked what

building they want it to go through, but our route goes right by the tribal administration office in Schurz.

Lindsey Harmon asked, so there will be a point of presence there?

Mike Piper answered yes.

Jeff Fontaine, Nevada Association of Counties, asked who was handling the project management and whose overseeing the construction? He also inquired about permitting and as far as portion of BLM land getting permits in place for that?

Mike Piper informed the group that they've contracted with E-Care Nevada and they were formed to build this project and run it and are sub-recipients of the grant. They've contracted out construction to Optica who is handling the day to day construction of the work; the actual contractor building the network is McCuhan Pipeline. BLM has issued permits for the entire route, it did take some time to work out but we now have permits to build the entire route whenever it goes across BLM land. We have some modifications to submit to BLM for some things we've come across so what we do is submit these to BLM once we figure them out, but for the most part we're clear on the entire route.

Jeff Fontaine asked for a rough estimate of when estimate was submitted and when approval was given and approximately how much time it took to get it done?

Mike Piper replied it took a couple years but it wasn't BLM's fault, it was partially their fault because they submitted their application and started working on issues and then we put it on the shelf for a while then worked it through. Mike added it was slower than they would have liked but it wasn't BLM's problem. There were issues late in the approval process with if we needed to post reclamation bond for the entire process, we had BLM insisting that there be a reclamation bond for the whole process, similar to mining bond, on the entire length of the process. We were able to convince them it was not necessary on particular project because it was on an existing poles so they decided they didn't need that, there was complications in our process at the very end but we were able to work through those even though it took a couple months.

Jeff Fontaine thanked and congratulated Mike on getting the project this far, and knows it is not an easy project to get going and they are making great progress.

Mike Piper added they are making great progress and can say with confidence it's going to get built.

Kevin Hayes, Las Vegas, inquired about having a physical connection to NSHE's AO cross connect at 200 S. Virginia and asked if later connections will be available to your connections through NSHE to remote schools?

Mike Piper responded that's not an issue we've worked through with NSHE, but the case where that would apply would be along US 95 and my assumption would be that NSHE would welcome us connecting. Goldfield is a good example, their school is very close to our backbone, if we were able to connect them then bring them back to S. Virginia then we could connect to NSHE's network but we would need to discuss that.

Kevin Hayes asked if there is a metro loop built into fiber run that allows communities from region stations located every 50 miles along the network?

Mike Piper answered yes and no, as you go south there's a pod in Carson City, 1 in Silver Springs, 1 in Yerington, 1 in Hawthorne and 1 in Pahrump. We've got region stations in Beatty and Lida Station, so in the case of Goldfield we would have to take them back to region station in Lida to get them back to Las Vegas or Reno but we do have points of presence in those areas with current Federal budget but we don't have money to build laterals to anyone but hospitals, but if financially sound we could proposition E-Care, who is committed to build those laterals if they can re-coop their monthly recurring charge.

Kevin Hayes asked if at those entities already servicing those communities would be willing to co-locate at ILA and if that's going to be an option? Is there capacity in that line and is it in E-Care's business to sell to community and those be the access points?

Mike Piper responded yes and also added that E-Care is not a local services provider but they would like contracts with LSP and already have 1 in place with Yerington and their ISP, but it's something they would want to do in all communities if someone is interested.

Kevin Hayes asked when commercial connections would be available.

Mike Piper said John with E-Care would be the person to answer those questions and will have him call Kevin.

Kevin Hayes asked if there were any more route changes.

Mike Piper responded that there are others which tend to be segments where we couldn't get right away for aerial so we must do burial and that's north of Yerington. We've got to go underground, just changes going from aerial to underground, and then we've got some pole placements where we've got to go around substations and that are the bulk of the route changes.

Kevin Hayes wanted to know if any of the planned service areas would be affected.

Mike Piper answered no.

Daphne DeLeon mentioned discussions with Telemedicine working with the group the assumption was the network would be operational by the end of December, do you know how this extension out until Spring 2015 impacts planning and work of that group?

Mike Piper answered no, not specifically. I do know that it depends from facility to facility whether we meet the December deadline, we will have some operational by December but not entire network. For instance, Yerington to Hawthorne is one of the last segments because of all the environmental work to do, but other hospitals out there will be connected by December.

Daphne DeLeon asked if there was a way to send a list with what will be operational by December.

Mike Piper answered yes.

Daphne DeLeon asked if he could send the list to Lindsey and then asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Gerald Ackerman, University of Nevada School of Medicine, mentioned that they had met in Lovelock and are working on a meeting in Elko but they had a hard time getting with administrator of the hospital and that actually a new administrator will be starting August 6, 2014 and that we wait until then and bring administrator on board.

Daphne DeLeon thanked Mike and added we look forward to updates.

Gerald Ackerman asked if we set meeting in Elko should we have SCS folks there regarding putting building in a different location rather than the college.

Mike Piper said they wanted to use the clinic.

Gerald Ackerman asked if staff from SCS should be at the meeting.

Mike Piper said it would be good and he'll let them know.

5. Approval of minutes from previous task force meeting (s)

Daphne DeLeon mentioned that review of minutes from previous taskforce meeting will be tabled until the next meetings since the minutes aren't ready and we'll move onto Agenda Item #6 – update from ANT (Arizona Nevada Tower).

6. Arizona Nevada Tower Update

Kevin Hayes said that their project was round 2 of the USDA side RF funding (Broadband Initiative Program). We've got a community of 29 wireless com sites connecting Reno to Las Vegas with microwave network which is also extended via Tonopah via Carlin and points in between. The network is partially completed from Hawthorne to Pahrump and currently starting construction on 6 new projects connecting parts of Tonopah to Elko, and are starting with connection in Eureka County to benefit Eureka County School District. Today our construction team is out with contractor's bidding on 7 more sites; we'll have 13 sites ready to move into construction this year. We will complete project to 90% providing we get contract approval in a timely fashion from the USDA which has been a challenge. In a nutshell where the project stands we will be in communities of Austin, Eureka, Dire, Railroad Valley and Duckwater within this calendar year providing we get timely contract approvals from the USDA. They've been challenged with infrastructure issues of their own which has lead to delays. All pre-construction features are completed, we did work with BLM which took about 2 years but it's all completed. We've got 4 sites left to finish by next summer and those will be final connections to Ambra Reservation and intermediate site upgrades.

Daphne DeLeon asked if there were any questions or comments and asked when the end of the project is?

Kevin Hayes responded September 2015.

Daphne DeLeon asked if they expected to be done before that or on time.

Kevin Hayes answered that they expected to be done before that and thinking they'll be done by February 2015.

Elmer Porter, Eureka County School District, asked if we are online to start Eureka project on Monday.

Kevin Hayes responded yes.

Daphne DeLeon asked if there were any other questions or comments, seeing none we'll move on to Agenda Item #7 – Telemedicine Summit Update.

7. Telemedicine Summit Update

Gerald Ackerman started by saying they're online for September and everyone should be getting a notice. This is a unique summit that includes military and private sector looking at military applications in telemedicine. They are getting close to getting all speakers with Daphne's help with Connect Nevada and registration will be limited. They've had inquiries from England and they have interest for applications over there. They will also be discussing reimbursement, legislative issues, first responder types of applications, mental health, will have a speaker from DOD to discuss a project they're doing, and will have helicopters parked at the Nugget.

Daphne DeLeon asked if Gerald could let Broadband Task Force members know where broadband is going to be discussed in sessions.

Gerald Ackerman said there will be 2 sections, a panel session on capacity and maybe a center of excellence floating around, and then what the military looks at is Nevada looks like what most of the military already looks like. They've had some capacity issues here and there and would like to make public/private partnerships in Nevada.

Daphne DeLeon asked if there are any questions or comments.

Bob Gaston, Mark Amodei's Office, asked if the VA was involved.

Gerald Ackerman said the VA has been invited but we don't have them specifically involved. We've got someone in our corporate office setting up speakers for this. We've got a speaker who just published a paper in the Arizona talking about barriers to implementation in telemedicine and they'll talk about challenges and things they've done to overcome that. We are trying to use mostly Nevadans for this.

9. Connect Nevada Update

Lindsey Harmon stated they had hosted a webinar discussing FCC rules that have been released and that there will be \$100 million from Connect America fund that is exclusively for high cost locations and that will be by unserved census blocks. The FCC uses a formula which determines which census blocks are highest cost and what subsidy rate should be for that. Applications are due October 14, 2014 by 3pm Pacific time. There's also \$75 million allocated to serve high cost locations with robust service (100 megs/download speed) and the service provider must provide one at 25 megs/download speed, and there's an additional \$15 million for 10 megs and then \$10 million for 10 megs for extremely high cost areas (most remote locations). There's a 10 year subsidy period, once registered as ETC providers can submit multiply bids for different census blocks but each provider has \$20 million limit. There is no competitor that provides same service of at least 3 megs in census block and the score will be percentage of money that FCC has allocated for that

block. Providers will get a 25% credit for serving tribal lands exclusively. The application is online and should be an easier process and within 10 days of being awarded the provider must provide 3 years of financial statements and a network diagram and within 60 days will need a letter of credit from their bank. The lists of high census blocks have been released and Connected Nation is putting together more in depth maps of areas.

Ed Anderson asked if most of the development is leaning towards public consumption.

Lindsey Harmon responded that it must serve residential.

Ed Anderson asked how many census blocks are available?

Lindsey Harmon said she wasn't sure off the top of her head but there's a lot and the webinar has the links to the information. There have been changes to E-Rate and they are allocating \$1.2 billion to internal networks that want to support one to one. She added that category 2 is typically internal wiring and that didn't get awarded much so they're making that the focus, there's still \$2.4 million available for connections to schools. Their goal is 100 megs per student.

Daphne DeLeon asked Elmer if Eureka County School District could get there.

Elmer Porter responded yes and their issue was Crescent Valley.

Lindsey Harmon also mentioned there are broadband workshops in Reno and Las Vegas and there are agendas that are pretty much the same as before with registration at noon, then introductions, discuss history of project, lunch with a guest speaker, then break into round tables to discuss different issues they've faced and how they overcame them and finally discuss possible solutions.

Daphne DeLeon asked if sector specific round table is K-12.

Lindsey Harmon responded yes K-12 , health care, and libraries.

Daphne DeLeon said if there are no more questions or comments I think we should meet at the end of August before the workshops and discuss everything we've got ready for them as well as think about the closing down of Connect Nevada in December.

10. Review and discussion on future task force meeting dates and future agenda items.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2014 at 9am.

11. Information Items

None

12. Public Comment

None

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 am.

